

Montana Coalition of Forest Counties

512 California Avenue • Libby, MT 59923

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 2-5-07

BILL NO. 554

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Member
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January 23, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Montana Coalition of Forest Counties strongly endorses SJ4, a resolution that supports the reauthorization of PL 106-393.

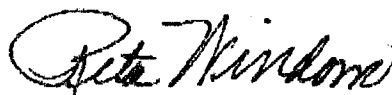
Thirty four counties (34) in Montana receive direct funding for schools and roads in excess of \$14,000,000. These funds are critical to the health and financial well being of these counties.

In addition, all 56 counties benefit from this federal revenue as the 34 impacted counties contribute to state equalization.

If PL 106-393 is not reauthorized, we will be forced to return to very uncertain funding in the form of timber receipts. Little timber is being harvested on our federal lands, so little revenue is being derived from timber harvest. Payments last year, if based on timber receipts, would have been about \$3,000,000, resulting in a loss to timber counties and subsequently the State of Montana, of approximately \$11,000,000.

Please pass SJ4 and send a message to Congress that Montana counties need and deserve the revenue derived from PL 106-393.

Respectfully,



Commissioner Rita Windom
President of the Montana Coalition of Forest Counties